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Great oaks grow from Little Acorns

A PRE-SCHOOL in Leigh has become the first to win a Southend gold award for its work developing the language and communication skills of young

Little Acorns, in Barnard Road, won the Southend Early Language and Communication Gold Award (SELCA). The award recognises excellence in supporting

and developing language and communication skills in young children.

The pre-school worked with specialist teacher Lynsey Weston and as part of its submission, had to review interaction skills, environment and resources and present a detailed case history of one child to

and present a detailed case history of one child to show how the new strategies were being used.

Little Acorns manager Anna Woodcock said: "We really enjoyed working towards our SELCA Gold. During this process it was great to see the long term progress of individual children as well as developing our practice, so that we can now continue to help improve the language skills of all the children within the pre-school."

Cllr James Courtenay, executive councillor for

Cllr James Courtenay, executive councillor for children and learning, added: "If children start pri-mary school without the basic speech and language skills it can be hard for them to learn and make friends, so this award is both great news and very



PROUD: Children at the award winning Little Acorns pre-school

Photo by Martin Dalton

Extension to entrance part of multi-million pound refurbishment proposal

By Michael Cox

southend@yellowad.co.uk

PLANS to extend the entrance to Southend Pier have been submitted as part of a multi-million pound investment

The proposals would see the pier entrance extended and the space remodelled to provide areas for exhibitions and refreshments, as well as a ramp to make the entrance fully accessible.

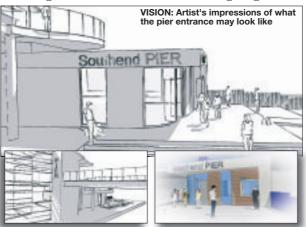
Cllr Ann Holland, executive councillor for culture, tourism and the economy, said the plans were the council's way of showing its intentions " to improve and protect of one of Southend's most iconic land-

The plans will be considered by the development control committee in the coming weeks and if approved, the redesign could take place later in the year. Cllr Holland said: "By proposing

these improvements, which would be part of a continued and multimillion pound investment in the pier, we hope to make the entrance more attractive and appealing to visitors, and help develop a sustain-

able income for years to come.
"These plans are carefully thought out to improve the quality of an important part of our history and future. The existing entrance is outdated and requires modernising, and these plans propose doing just that."

If the plans are given the go-ahead, they would be funded by £300,000 capital funding that was approved as part of the council's 2017/18 budget.





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Budget cuts pose threat to police mental health

BUDGET cuts have had a "devastating impact" on the morale and mental health of Essex police staff.

That is the verdict of a university professor who has shadowed police

Anglia Ruskin University's senior lecturer in criminology, Dr Natalie Mann, spoke out after conducting research with an Essex police team managing sexual and violent

She said: "I have seen the devastating impact budget cuts and staff shortages have had on the morale and the mental health of police staff.

"I have witnessed first hand the immense pressure created by the rising number of sexual offenders being prosecuted and watched as officers have lost their ability to do the job they are expected to do.
"As one detective constable I

spoke to during my research explained to me: 'We're failing vic-tims. We're failing offenders and

we're failing in our statutory duty to protect the public."

Dr Mann completed her PhD in criminology at the University of Essex in 2008. She has published work on child sex offenders and conducted research with Essex Police, Essex Probation and Essex Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements on the monitoring and surveillance of high-risk sexu-

She said that police investigations and prosecutions of sex abuse, and the management of registered sexual offenders, cannot succeed without a "major injection" of government money.

She rejected claims by policing minister and former Brentwood Council leader, Brandon Lewis, that budget cuts had not had a negative impact on police work.

She also rejected calls for the decriminalisation of offences related to possessing indecent images or



WARNING: Dr Natalie Mann

videos of children

She added: "Offenders who are found to possess indecent images or videos of children, and those who have committed a physical offence against a child, are inextricably linked.

"Viewing indecent images of children can be a precursor to the actual physical abuse of children

the desire for sexual abuse, which can encourage them to commit such offences. It can also represent the first step in the criminal career of a sexual offender; once internal and external barriers, such as guilt, shame and societal disapproval are overcome, it becomes easier for them to move on to more serious

A spokesman for Essex Police acknowledged that Dr Mann had conducted research with the force, but was unable to confirm the detective constable was an Essex Police employee.

Essex Police confirmed that officers were dealing with a "signifi-cantly increased volume of inci-

A spokesman added: "The work officers and staff do in this area is exceptionally difficult and stressful and the welfare of our people is incredibly important to us.



TRAGIC: Khabi Abrev lost her life in the fire

Westcliff arsonist was schizophrenic

A MAN who set fire to a block of flats in Westcliff, killing a neighbour and her unborn child, has been made the subject of a hospital

Lillo Troisi, 48, made a fire in a communal hallway outside Khabi Abrey's flat on the ninth floor at Grampian Flats in Balmoral Road at about 11.10pm on Saturday, May 7, 2016.

A judge heard he was a paranoid schizophrenic and said he had heard voices telling him to start

Witnesses reported hearing Mrs Abrey shouting for help and tried to help her, but the smoke was

Firefighters evacuated the ninth floor and found Mrs Abrey, 30, unconscious in the hallway. She was taken to hospital but died on Monday, May 9.

A post-mortem examination gave the cause of her death as complications arising following the inhalation of fire fumes. This led to her unborn

baby suffering a cardiac arrest. Troisi, unemployed, of Grampian Flats, Balmoral Road, Westcliff, was charged with murder, child destruction and arson.

He denied the charges but admitted involuntary manslaughter and arson when he appeared at the Old Bailey on Tuesday November 1, 2016.

The Crown Prosecution Service accepted the pleas and offered no evidence in respect of the other charges.

He was sentenced at Blackfriars Crown Court

on Thursday March 16, where he was detained under Section 37 of the Mental Health Act to receive treatment.

Paedophile avoids sentence as case 'a mess'

By Michael Cox

southend@yellowad.co.uk

THE SENTENCING of a pae-dophile from Westcliff has been deferred after his case was described by a judge as "a mess".

Francis Thomas, 66, of North Road, was due to be sentenced for breaching a Sexual Harm Prevention Order and making indecent images of children at Basildon Crown Court on Thursday, March 16.

But the sentencing was deferred after police admitted the indecent images were old and they could not prove he had deliberately breached his order after it was imposed.

The sentencing hearing had already been delayed by more than two months. The court heard on January 20 that police attended



Thomas' property on December 9 - two days after he had been given the Sexual Harm Prevention Order and found six Category C images of children on a Kindle tablet.

He had received the order after admitting seven indecent, extreme and prohibited images charges. After the new images were discovered, Thomas was charged with a fresh count of making indecent images and pleaded guilty.

However, the court heard last Thursday that the images had been downloaded in November 2015 – but police failed to discover them in time for his original prosecution.

During the December 9 search,

officers also found that a 'Clean Master' application had been Master' application had been installed to delete internet history from his mobile phone.

Thomas was accused of, and pleaded guilty to, breaching the Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

But the court described it as a 'technical breach' after police said

the app had been installed before the order was put in place and he may just have forgotten to delete it.

Judge David Owen-Jones said that a memo put on the case file by Judge Ian Graham following a hearing on January 20 described the case as being in "a mess"

Thomas was given the Sexual Harm Prevention Order on December 7, alongside an eightmonth prison sentence, suspended for 18 months

He received the sentence after he admitted possessing, among others, 203 still and moving Category A indecent images of children 'involving penetrative sexual activity' or 'sexual activity with an animal or sadism'.

Thomas is next due to appear at the court in three months' time.

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Reporter Michael Cox 01268 503461

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IT is a frequent complaint of mums the world over that once they have children, the time they have to take care of themselves suffers.

COMPETITION

Most of us would love to treat the most special lady in our lives to an all-inclusive spa holiday somewhere tropical to repay the time she has spent looking after us, but true comfort can be as simple as an incredible pair of socks, says thermal experts

Heat Holders.
In the US, the National Sleep Foundation claims that wearing socks to bed helps you relax and fall asleep far faster, which is ideal for busy mums who need enough quality down time to keep their wits about them during the day.

March is still likely to be chilly outdoors, meaning the problem of icy toes will not be going away any time soon.

Heat Holders are the creators of the world's warmest sock, possessing a market-leading 2.34 TOG rating, but the range has also proven that thermal does not have to mean fuddy-duddy, making them a great Mother's Day

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Award for blind welfare charity

VOLUNTARY organisations in Southend, Castle Point and Rochford were honoured at the High Sheriffs' Awards.

The gongs recognise community initiatives which address crime, community safety and anti-social behaviour.

The awards ceremony, at Hylands House, Chelmsford, saw trophies, certificates and grants handed out by the outgo-ing High Sheriff of Essex, Lorna Rolfe.

Southend Blind Welfare Organisation, was given £1,000 towards its work helping visually impaired people feel safe and confident in their homes. Rayleigh Pubwatch was awarded the Essex Police Cup to acknowledge the contribution it continues to make to communi-



AWARD: Steve Scruton (presenter), High Sheriff Lorna Rolfe and David Hurst from Southend Blind Welfare Organisation.

ty safety. Other Rochford groups honoured were Footprints Community Group and Rayleigh Horticultural Society.

Grants and certificates were awarded to Canvey Island Youth Project and London Bus Theatre Company. SOS Rape Crisis was also given a grant of £750 for a project assisting women in prostitution or the sex industry in Southend, Castle Point and Rochford.

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Council gets new

A NEW chief executive is set to be appointed at Southend Council, subject to approval.
Alison Griffin is director of

finance and corporate services at Bexley Council in south-east London. She is set to replace Rob Tinlin.

Cllr John Lamb, leader of Southend Council, said: "The Appointments

delighted to recommend to full council that Alison Griffin is appointed as the new chief executive and town clerk

"The recruitment and selection process was rigorous and proper, and all candidates should be congratulated for the professionalism and integrity in which it was carried out



APPOINTED: Alison Griffin

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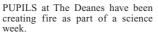






Science

fires up Deanes



Students at the school, in Daws Heath Road, Thundersley, used the flammable properties of methane to set bubbles on fire.

It was one of a variety of experiments that they participated in at lunchtimes to celebrate British Science Week

Experiments included screaming jelly babies, and chemicals shooting out of boiling tubes, with flashes of different colours. The Rubens tube was used to create a light and fire show created by changing the amplitude and frequency of sound waves.

Headteacher Desi McKeown said: "At The Deanes we feel it is so important to nurture the students' curiosity for the world of science.

"These events have been an enormous success in enabling our students to learn scientific concepts but also enthuse their love for science into their future lives.'









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SOUTHEND **Adult Community** College has been successful in its attempt to be on the Register of Apprenticeship

Training Providers. The college has centres in Ambleside Drive, Southend and at Belfairs Academy in Leigh, and offers a range of intermediate. advanced and higher apprenticeships.

Ĉlaire Gavaghan, vice-principal at the college, said: "We are thrilled to be included on the new register. SACC is now an approved provider able to deliver training to levy paying employers.

ESSEX Police has urged owners of pick-up trucks, vans and people carriertype cars to be vigilant following reports of various incidents of catalytic converters being stolen from cars across Southend.
A police spokesman

said the trend was particularly prevalent in cars with a higher ground clearance, and added that police urged all owners to use preventative measures when

possible. Measures include buying a locking loom, which can secure the catalytic converter. parking in a well-lit area or in view of visible security cameras and parking in a garage or on a driveway. Also park next to low clearance cars so access to the catalytic converter can be obstructed.

• A QUIZ night is set to take place to fundraise for a Westcliff charity, at The Sarah Moore Pub in Elm Road, Leigh on Sunday April 2nd, starting at 7.30pm.

It is being held to raise money for the Lady McAdden **Breast Screening** Trust, which offers services for early detection of breast cancer and raises awareness of the

condition. The quiz will be followed by a prize raffle draw, with any contributions towards the draw can be dropped off at the pub or the charity's shop in Elm Road.

Quiz entry costs £3 per person and the maximum number of members per team is six – any team looking to reserve a place should call the charity on 01702

• A HOUSE fire in Leigh was caused by an electric charger

for a toy, firefighters have ruled.

Two fire crews were scrambled to Woodside at 6.05pm on Thursday, March 16. A bedroom on the third storey was alight and the entire floor had been filled with smoke. The blaze was out by 6.40pm. Occupants had closed all their internal doors before evacuating the property, which stopped the fire and smoke spreading to the rest of the house. A spokesman said:

"The cause of the fire has been recorded as accidental, due to a charger which was being used at the time, charging the toy."

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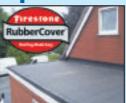
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YA investigation included in online news exhibition

gation has been included in an online exhibition on the Power of News

The News Media Association is exhibiting the YA's investigation - which prompted Essex Police to reopen a 25-year-old child sex abuse case – along-side campaigns by national newspapers including the Guardian, the Daily Mail and

the Sunday Times.
The exhibition is designed as a showcase of "agenda-setting investigations, campaigns and scoops" which demonstrate "the power of original news

The YA investigation began in late 2014 when chief reporter Charles Thomson discovered Essex County Council had authorised 10 compensation payments that year for historic alleged abuse.

In early 2015, after County Hall refused to answer questions about the payments, the YA launched a campaign for transparency, which was transparency, which was transparency by the National Association for People Abused Childhood and Taxpayers' Alliance.



The campaign prompted a whistleblower to come forward with concerns over the way child abuse allegations had been investigated in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Further YA stories published in mid-2015, based on Charles's work with the whistleblower, inspired two more people to come forward with similar concerns.

The YA introduced the three then Police and Crime Commissioner Nick Alston, who in turn introduced them to the chief constable and a senior sex crimes detective.

ABUSE CLAIMS MET WITH WALL OF SILENCE



A decision was taken shortly afterwards to reopen a historic child sex case and investigate the whistleblowers' concerns.

The YA later tracked down a fourth whistleblower, who is also cooperating with the ongoing police investigation.

In December, the YA investigation won Charles a Highly Commended award in the Local Hero category at the national British Press Awards.

To view the News Media Association exhibition, visit: http://www.newsmediauk.org/ Power-of-News.

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PC sacked over racist investigation cover up

AN ESSEX Police officer has been sacked for gross misconduct after covering up evidence against a group of men under investigation for a racially motivated attack.

PC Alan Conran, who was based at Chelmsford police station, obtained the names of the men who had racially abused two women – but took no action and wrongly told the victims the men could not be identified.

The two women were racially abused by a group of men in Bond Street, Chelmsford, in December 2014. One of the woman was then punched and knocked unconscious.

A misconduct panel last week found Conran 'failed to adequately investigate' the attack and 'deliberately misled colleagues during the investigation'.

A statement issued by Essex Police after the hearing said: "Panel members were told the man arrested had identified other people within the group of men present at the scene of the assault. However, the panel found PC Contran failed to investigate, wrongly telling the victim it would be difficult to identify the men."

Chief Superintendent Luke Collison said while an offender was brought to justice, PC Conran's actions meant the true impact of the racial abuse, was not brought before the court.

Beecroft plan approved

THE BID to convert a former art gallery into artist studios have been approved.

Southend Council planning officers have granted planning consent for proposals to create 23 accessible studios for artists as well as a community gallery and workshop space at the former Beecroft Gallery in Westcliff.

Anyone interested in learning more should email the gallery team at focalpointgallery@southend.gov.uk.

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READERS' LETTERS/DOUBLE CROSSWORD

Fire should run merger with police

I REFER to the article in the Yellow Advertiser dated Friday, March 17, regarding the proposed merger of the police and fire service.

This has got to be worth considering, just as long as both are run by the fire service.

But the thought that, what passes for a police force in Essex could be let loose running the fire service? The stuff of nightmares.

Edward White Thorpe Bay

People have voted - let's have Brexit

FRANKLY, I am getting really fed up with all the politicians, the bureaucrats and assorted brainwashing "journalists" on both sides of the Channel endlessly coming up with "reasons" why Brexit needs to be postponed, cancelled,

be postponed; cancerned thought out some more ...

Democracy itself has to be put on hold (just this once) and we should wait until some

magical and miraculous event takes place – perhaps such as when the Brussels bureaucrats finally balance the EU accounts.

Maybe those of us who can't wait to get out of the clutches of the EU, should also come to parade in front of Parliament.

There would certainly be a lot more of us than all those 'remoaning" idiots for whom democracy suddenly doesn't

Probably the main problem is that Theresa May doesn't really want to leave the EU either and all the governments involved (including ours) are not worried about access to the other countries, but how much they could squeeze out of each other in taxes/duties.

A hint for the Prime Minister: the whole process should not have taken more than two to three days - to be sure, how long does it take to agree on "if you don't block our access and don't tax our exports, we won't block or tax yours?"

And all that theatre about the courts, another vote in the Parliament and one more in the Lords - together with all the other stupid suggestions, they are all just artificial hurdles in an attempt to put the whole thing off.

About a year ago, Parliament ■ We welcome letters and e-mails on all subjects. Please keep them to fewer than

had already voted to let the citizens decide in a referendum – and we have – so why are they deliberating and deciding this all over again.

Mrs May's negotiating skills are so poor that I wonder how did she ever got to be the Prime Minister. (Perhaps the

question should be, why?).

Nigel Farage has left the stage and Boris Johnson seems to be asleep at the switch.

And if one more EU idiot says he wants a parting gift (£50billion or even just a handful of sand), he needs to be slapped and thrown out.

Fred Nicholson Westcliff

Government did listen in NI rise row

IT is all too easy to criticise government for a U-turn but frankly it has listened to its own and the lobby about the one per cent National Insurance rise for class 4 selfemployed and cancelled it.

The only ones unhappy are those oppositionists.

I am pleased the government listened.

Cllr Mark Flewitt St Laurence Ward

QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS Disconcert (7)
- Sum (5)
- 9. Marsh (3) 10. Exaggeration (9)
- Wares (11)
- Hypocrisy (11) Dresser (9)
- 19. Place (3)
- 21. Adder (5)
- 22. Systematic (7)

DOWN

- Fitting (3)

- 11. Circumference (9)
- 13. Bird (6)
- Tasteless (7)
- 16. Subdue (5)

20. Stitch (3)

- 8. Mend (6)

Last week's solutions QUICK SOLUTIONS

OUICK SOLUTIONS

Across: 6 Nonplus; 7 Total; 9 Bog; 10 Hyperbole; 12

Merchandise; 15 Insincerity; 17 Sideboard; 19 Put; 21

Viper; 22 Orderly.

Down: 1 Robot; 2 Apt; 3 Quay; 4 Morbidity; 5 Lawless; 8

Repair; 11 Perimeter; 13 Cuckoo; 14 Insipid; 16 Quell; 18

- Automaton (5)
- Wharf (4)
- Unhealthiness (9)
- Unruly (7)

- 18. Unusual (4)

18 & 3 Down. Being strangely remote

20. Study in advanced English (3)

CRYPTIC SOLUTIONS

Across: 7 Christian name; 8 Islander; 9 So-so; 10 Bleach; 12 Aurtie; 14 Propel; 16 Strafe; 18 Pals; 20 Manicure; 22

Down: 1 Whistler; 2 Cicada; 3 Stud; 4 Fairways; 5 Unison; 6 Xmas; 11 Half moon; 13 Informal; 15 Pastry; 17 Recaps;





CRYPTIC CLUES

6. Mahogany tree? (7)

- 7 & 21 Across. What the sports photographer does, shows bias (5,5) 9, 19 Across & 8 Down. Singular method of getting through town
- 10. Officer involved in recount (9)
- 12. They discharge debts for the colonies (11)
- 15. With which the relinquishment of office may be accepted (11)
- 17. It may let you down lightly (9)
- 19. See 9 Across.
- 21. See 7 Across.
- 22. Endless increase in dreadfully toxic

DOWN

- 1. Deceptive movement not easy to discern, one hears (5)
- 2. Animal trapped in severe weather
- See 18 Down.
- 4. Made a fuss and didn't stop (7,2)
- 5. The explosive results of press accounts (7)
- 8 See 9 Across
- 11. They're under orders not to strike matches (9)
- 13. Tithes then will be revised in
- back-street (6) 14. Sort of art shown by the man at
- the wheel before the firing takes place 16. Fundamental groundwork supplied
- by one in a low voice (5)
- is irritating (8)

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Tivin Inner Full Fare Saver Fare from £1589

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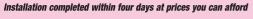
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These period doors have slam-shut locks to eliminate the need for a lever handle on the external face and therefore keep the authentic appearance of this style of door. A large collection of corner samples, showing different styles and the colours that Climatec can offer are also in the showroom, as well as fully operational

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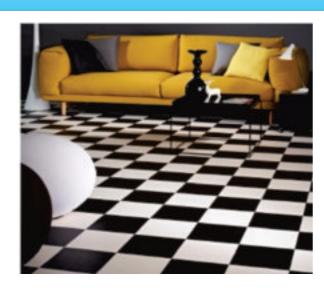
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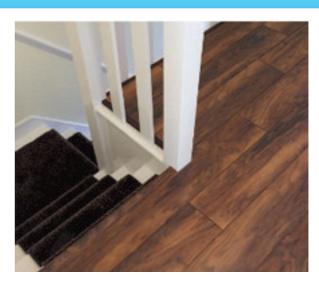
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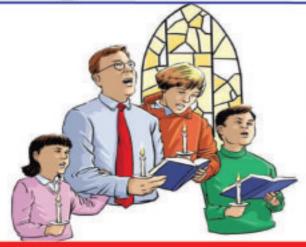








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Arresting fairy tale

By Liz Wade

features@yellowad.co.uk

THE cock-eyed characters in James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim's fractured fairy tale, Into The Woods, are being brought to the stage next month by the Essex Police Musical Society.

The society will be staging the production, complete with an ambivalent Cinderella, a blood-thirsty Little Red Riding Hood and a Prince Charming with a roving eye, at Essex Police HQ, Sandford Road, Chelmsford, from Tuesday to Saturday, April 4 to 8.

When The Baker and his wife are

When The Baker and his wife are cursed with childlessness by a witch, they embark on a quest for several special objects in the hope that they will break the spell.

They swindle and lie to steal from Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood,

Rapunzel and Jack – the one who climbed the beanstalk – and as everyone's wishes are granted, their actions return to haunt them.

It takes a while to realise they have to act together to succeed in their plans, turning a lively irreverent fantasy into an important lesson in life about community responsibility and the stories we tell our children.

tell our children.
Cast member Kate Alliston, who has been a member of the society for 13 years, said: "The Baker's Wife is certainly my biggest role to date. I admire her determination – she knows what she wants, she goes and she finds it and she gets it but she has also such heart, love for her husband and cares for those around her. She's funny too and flawed, you wait until act two. I can't wait to share her with you."

an't wait to snare ner with you. Iess Merriam, who play Cinderella, added: "I'm thrilled to have been cast as Cinderella in my fourth show with EPMS.

"I've been in a lot of shows over the past 24 years, but Into The Woods has to have been the most challenging yet, especially musically. But, as usual, I've loved every minute and I've really enjoyed getting to grips with a different side of the princess we all know and love."

Grace Pratt, who joined EPMS in 2015 and plays The Witch in her first principle role, says there is one person who always loved to watch her perform when she was a little girl hanging up sheets—her mum.

girl hanging up sheets – her mum.

Dedicating her performance to that special lady, Grace added: "What drew me to the part is that she seems to be many characters brought into one. I love that she will say what everyone wants to say."

say what everyone wants to say."

This year the society is support-

ing three worthy causes – PARC Essex, a charity that provides play and recreational facilities to additional needs children and young adults in the county, as well as Essex Air Ambulance and the Essex Police 4X4 charity, made up of a small group of police personnel who, in their spare time, organise an annual fun day for children

with disabilities. While it has now been more than 50 years since the society's first production, its history stretches beyond that. In the late 1940s a few police officers and their wives started a group called The New Court Players, and went on to perform small plays in an old wooden hut near police headquarters in Springfield, Chelmsford.

When some of the original members moved from the headquarters, and others retired, the num-

ber of members dwindled. The small number that remained made a decision to perform a musical, Calamity Jane, and The New Court Players became The Police Headquarters Musical Society.

Back in the 1980s the society was renamed The Essex Police Musical Society, and since then members have produced two shows a year at the Assembly Hall. Today it is still going strong and over the last few years has seen a rise in membership.

Performances of Into The Woods will be held at 7.30pm, from April 4-8, as well as a Saturday matinee, and tickets are priced at £9, with concessions available for £7 on some days.

For further information and to

■ For further information and to buy tickets visit the EPMS website at www.epms.org.uk or call the booking line on 07867 851355.

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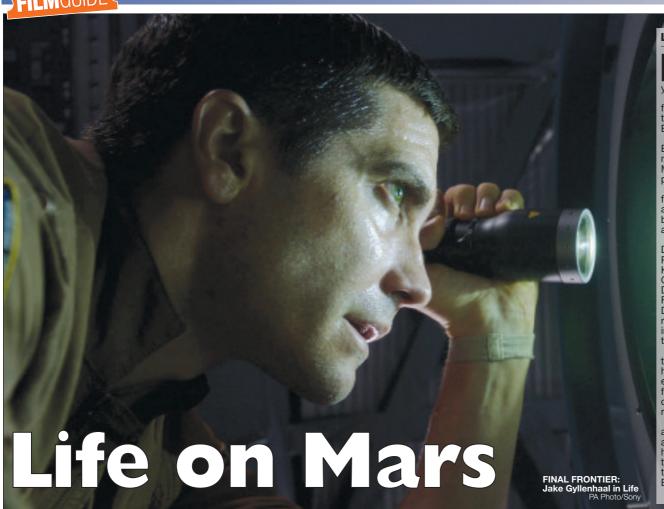
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Espinosa's otherworldly thriller.
Scientist Hugh Derry (Ariyon
Bakare) leads the six-strong international team of the Mars Pilgrim 7 Mission, which travels to the red planet in search of proof of life. They discover a single-celled life-

form and transport the organism affectionately christened Calvin back to space station for further

analysis.

analysis.

The rest of the crew, including Dr David Jordan (Jake Gyllenhaal), Rory Adams (Ryan Reynolds), Sho Kendo (Hiroyuki Sanada), Katerina Golovkin (Olga Dihovichnaya) and Dr Miranda North (Rebecca Ferguson) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reacts to Calvin's arrivel with vary reacts to Calvin's arrival with varying degrees of delight and trepida-

While Miranda strongly urges caution in case Calvin turns out to be hostile, Hugh excitedly conducts experiments and discovers that feeding Calvin glycerine causes the organism to multiply at a ferocious

When the new arrival starts to attack the crew, alarm bells sound and the survivors must discover how to exterminate Calvin before the fully grown creature escapes the space station and heads to Earth to wreak havoc.

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SK most mums what they would like on Mothering Sunday and it is likely to be 'time with the family'.

So book yourself in for a bake off, make a cake

and turn up in time for afternoon tea - it is guaranteed to make everyone happy.

To get you started here is a spectacular cake from blogger and baker to the stars, Georgia Green (www.georgias-cakes.co.uk), for you to try.

GEORGIA'S OMBRE CAKE

For the cake: 250g butter 250g caster sugar 250g self raising flour 200g eggs (about 4) 1tsp vanilla extract

For the buttercream: 500g icing sugar 150g softened butter 60ml milk 1 vanilla pod Pink food colouring

To decorate (optional): Fresh fruit macarons Meringue kisses White chocolate shards Strawberries Flowers

To make the cake, melt the butter then mix with the caster sugar. Add the eggs and mix through, then the flour and vanilla until incorporated.

Divide into two six-inch cake tins and bake at 180C for 30-40 minutes, until they are cooked through.

cream. together the icing sugar, butter and milk and add the seeds from the vanilla pod. Keep beating until the mixture is light and fluffy.

Once the cakes have cooled, cut Georgia Green



into two layers so PA Phot you have a total of four layers of cake.

Put the first layer onto a cake board or plate with a little buttercream underneath so it does not slip. Pipe or spread some buttercream onto the layer of cake and sandwich another on top. Repeat until you get to the last cake, being sure to turn the final layer upside down, so the top is the flat part from the cake tin.

Smother buttercream over the whole layered cake and scrape away the excess (this is called crumb coating). Refrigerate or freeze for 20 minutes until the buttercream has hardened.

Mix a couple of heaped tablespoons of buttercream with some food colouring in a bowl to get a dark colour. Spread a thin layer of the coloured buttercream around the bottom of the cake.

Add some more white buttercream to the coloured one to make a lighter shade, and spread it on the cake just above the layer you just did. Repeat until you get to the top, where you want to spread white buttercream on the top layer and the top of the cake. Use a scraper or palate knife to go around the cake, smooth out the sides and you should achieve the ombre effect. Even out the top and decorate with fruit, flowers and sweet treats, or however you like!



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ning Mother's Day spread.

Safari Print Chocolates: £6.50

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Advertisement feature

F you want to enjoy mouth-watering food this Mother's Day then make sure you book a table at the

popular Taste of Raj.
The long established restaurant, situated in the heart of Rochford, is taking bookings for Sunday, March 26, when you can enjoy either a buffet or a la carte menu from noon to 5.30pm, or its a la carte menu from 5.30pm to 11.30pm.

Throughout the year, Taste of Raj's menu is packed with outstanding Indian cuisine including a vast range of appetisers such as the Mix Platter followed by a variety of traditional favourites.

They also have some mouth watering chef specialities such as Gost Ada Kata, Gost Kalia and the popular Rajeswari all of which have their own unique taste thanks to a variety of special spices and ingredients.

If you want to try something different then there are also a range of Persian dishes to from, choose including Dansak and Pathia, and a variety of Satkora dishes that are cooked Bangladeshi style. Also to finish of your meal with a selection of deserts including Cadburys Flake and Salted Champagne. As well as being the ideal

matter of taste



place to celebrate Mother's Day, Taste of Raj is the perfect setting for a range special events throughout the year including birthdays and family occasions.

It also offers outstanding value-for-money thanks to a range of offers including its Banquet Lunch Special, served from noon to 2.30pm, when you can order anything from the menu for only £8.95 per person (King prawn dishes £2 extra).

The Sunday buffet, served from noon to 5.30pm, is the perfect excuse to enjoy fantastic cuisine with all the family as diners can eat as much as they like for just £7.95 per person, with children under the age of 10 can enjoying the buffet for only £3.95. On Sundays its a la carte menu is also available.

Customers wanting to enjoy a great meal in the comfort of their own home are also spoilt for choice, as all of the restaurant's dishes can be prepared

away menu, which has a range of meal deals including a set meal for one for just £12.95 and a set meal for two for £23.95, offers free home delivery on orders of more than £10, and even a complementary bottle of wine on orders of more than £39.95.

All of this is complimented by a great service and warm welcome which go towards making your meal one to

The fully licensed and air conditioned restaurant can also provide an outside catering service for whatever event or special occasion you are planning, and provide a menu to suit.

The restaurant, at 8 East Street, is open seven days a week, including bank holidays, from noon to 2.30pm and from 5.30-11.30pm, from Monday to Thursday; from 5-11.30pm on Friday; from noon to 2.30pm and from 5pm to midnight on Saturday; and from noon to 11.30pm on

For further information, or to make a reservation, call Taste of Raj, at 8 East Street, Rochford, on 01702 542916 or 01702 545293, or visit www.taste-of-raj.com for online orders







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Will be included. However, you can add the details of your event to our website at www.yellowad.co.uk

Friday, March 24

- Friday, March 24

 Ron Spack's Dinner Jazz Duo San Fairie Ann, Alexander Street, Southend, 8.15pm. Details 0.1702.348088.
 Counselling Service The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 0.1702.524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
 Overeaters Anonymous Basildon Group Nevenden Community Hall, St Peter's Church, Church Lane, Basildon, SS13.18Z.8pm, Colin, 0.7446.080054.
 George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, beginners tai chi: 10am to noon, darts: 2-4pm, marquetry: 10 to noon, art: 12.30-2.30pm. Snooker and birgo, £2, 0.1268.465864.
 Book Club George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 10-3.15pm. 0.1268.465854.
 Book Club George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, 10-11am. 0.1268.465854.
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 Table Tennis Laindon Community Centre, Aston Road, off High Street, for over-50s, 11am-1pm, 07931 564105.

Saturday, March 25

- MEN2SING St Nicolas Church, SS11 8SH, 7.30pm. Tickets from men2sing.org.uk, 01286 781662 or on
- Cat Action Trust 1977 Quiz Night St ■ Cat Action Trust 1977 Quiz Night – St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, 7.30pm, £4, To book call 01702 477163/540903. ■ Charity table sale – Billericay United Reformed Church, Mayflower Hall, Chapel Street, Billericay, 9.30am-midday. ■ Ron Spack's Dinner Jazz Duo – San Fairie Ann, Alexander Street, Southend,

- 1pm. Details 01702 348088.
 Saturday Club for people with special needs, 9am to noon, games, music, arts, crafts. Ages 14 upwards, Frypa Hall, The Fryth, Basildon, 01268 415409.
- Fryth, Basildon. 01288 415409.

 Counselling service The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 1702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.

 Yugioh Club play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Read, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS1 1 8EB, mini-tournaments, 1.30-4.20pm. 07985 671289.

 Saturday Morning Club St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am to noon, free entry, 01702 437863.

 Brush Strokes Art Group Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea, 9.15am-12.15pm, 01277 627043.

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- Different Strokes Exercise class St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, for stroke victims, 2.30pm. 01702 612509. Jazz Workshop Southend Jazz Co-op, Hadleigh old fire station, Hadleigh, 10am-1pm, £5 per session (concessions).

Sunday, March 26

- Hockley & District Horticultural Society trading hut behind Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell, 10am to noon. Membership £3.
- Membership Ex.

 Sunday School The Ark, Hadleigh
 Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ,
 11am to noon, ages three to 10. Call
 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.

 Quaker Meeting for silent worship and
 meditation Quaker Meeting House,
 Dundonald Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, 10.30-

- Duridoriad Drive, Leigh-off-Sea, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation.

 King's Church, Southend Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, 10.30am to noon, 01702 523639.

 Greek Community of Southend & District, Church of St Barbara, St Phanourious and St Paul's, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff, 10am to noon. 01702 466435.
- 400433.
 Sunday Club TGH Evangelical
 Church, Kiln Road, Thundersley, (ages three to 12), 10.45-11.45am, no charge, details 01702 554904.
- Mojo Friendship Club Travellers' Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, details Mo 07757 658700 07757 658799.

Monday, March 27

■ Ron Spack's Jazztet – Kenny Baxter, saxophone and Tony Gooderham, keyboard, Oakwood, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, Southend, 8.30pm. Details 01702 512819.

- Bowls FS&S Club, Gardiners Close, Basildon. All-weather green, free coaching, details call Chris 01288 419831.
 Green bowls Mopsies Park, Vange, details 01288 558756.
 Games Club St Clement's Church, The Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Scrabble, chess, runmikub, backgammon and lots more. 2pm-4pm. Tel 07884 148148.
 Coffee Morning and sale of goods Christ Church, Wickford, 9am to noon.
 Club 50+ 1B Queen's Road, Southend, 9.30am-3.30pm, daily, £2 day pass, details 01702 346863.
 Sunshine Coffee Morning for parents in Craylands and Felmores area. Briscoe Community Centre, 9-11am, free workshop, coffee and creche. Call Dawn 07880 035968, or just turn up.
 Dance Class usually six-week course, ballroom, Latin American, Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.
 Leigh Scrabble Club 7-10pm. Wesley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Turn up or call 01268 727915.
 George Hurd Centre, Basildon, for the over-50s. Craft: 10am to noon, at: 12.30-2.30pm, choir: 2.30-4pm, indoor bowls: 2-4pm. £2, 01268 465854.
 Senior Citzens Club Richmond Hall, Benfleet, 1.30-3.30pm.
 Counselling Service Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anythine and we

- Control Oritical is Util Hitinmond Hall, Benfleet, 1:30-3.30pm.
 Counselling Service Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call anytime and we will get back to you, 01702 524346, enquiries@olivetreecentre.org.uk.
 Over-50s Keep-fit Classes Fryerns Community Centre, Pat 01268 770294.
 Duplicate Bridge Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opp Thames Drive), 1.15pm-4.30pm, call 01702 343611 or 01702 520993.
 Duplicate Bridge Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, 62 Southerhurch Boulevard, Southend, all standards, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed), 7:30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.
 Weekly, Craft Workshop St Peter's
- Weekly Craft Workshop St Peter's Church Hall, Thundersley, 6-8pm, Michelle 07730 582784.

 Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic
- Group 8-10pm, James Hornsby High School, Leinster Road, Laindon, details Jeff School, Leinster Hoad, Laindon, details Jett 07913 426371, join@basildonplayers.co.uk. ■ Zumba – Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432. ■ Beginners Computer Course – Pitsea Day
- Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 11am-1pm. 01268 465432.

 Short Mat Bowls Club in Hadleigh –
- welcomes new members, Canvey Short Mat Bowls Club, call Kevin 01268 792433

- Short Mat Bowls, Thundersley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.
 Indoor Short Mat Bowls Prittlewell Bowls Olub, Priory Park, Southend, Ray 01268 777666.
 Indoor Bowls George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, Monday 2-4pm, 01268 465854.
- 2-4pm, 01268 465854.

 Whist George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, 10am to noon, details 01268 465854.

 Senior Citizens Club Ghyllgrove Centre, Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 293995.

 Pensioners stall York Road Outdoor Medical Scaleband Ren

- Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm, 01268 293995.
 Pensioners stall York Road Outdoor Market, Southend, 8am-2pm.
 Evening of clairoyance 57 Point Road, Carvey, SS8 7TT. 3pm, £3 all profits to charity Tel: 07922 001433 or 01268 691922.
 Development Healing Circle Face Salon, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff, understanding of spiritual healing and prayer, 8-9.30pm, 07879 004744.
 Fitness Walking from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea, 7.15-8.15pm, 01702 715509.
 Scrabble Club Wesley Ohurch Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, (opp police station), beginners welcome, no partner needed, 7-10pm, £3, call 01268 727915.
 Hadleigh Castle Townswomen's Guild Appliance Hall, Old Fire Station, High Street SS7 2PA, 1.30-3.30pm, Visitors £2.50.
 IT help sessions Billericay Library, 10.30am to noon. Details 01277 624624.
 Computer help session Bilericay Library, 10.30am to noon. Feel 01277 624624.

Tuesday, March 28

- Painting class The Studio, Glebelands Nursery, Hawkwell, Hockley, SS5 4JY. 10.30am-12.30pm. Details 01702 30717.
- Rayleigh Horticultural Society Club Night St Michael's Church Hall. Sir Walter Night - St Michael's Church Hall, Sir Walter Raleigh Drive, Rayleigh, SS6 9JB. Talk by Brian Carline: Tripe 'n Trotters - growing up in the 1940s and '50s. 8-10pm. Members £1.50, non-members £2.50.

 ■ Counselling service - The Olive Tree Centre, 9am-9pm, call 01702 524346, page 1956.
- Centre, 9am-9pm, call 017/25/24-346, enquirise@oolivetreecentre.org.uk.
 Yoga Class Thorpedene Community Centre, Delaware Road. Shoeburyness, 7-8.30pm, £6, bring a blanket and yoga mat, ages 16-plus. 07961 314983.
 Table Tennis 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3 60 ner session.
- Megacentre, 7 Brook Road, Hayleign, 23.60 per session.
 Social Dance Class ballroom, Latin American and sequence, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashingdon and East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. 01702 546219/542349.
- Craft Group Oasis Coffee House, 189 Leigh Road, Leigh. 2.30-4pm. 01702

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*HIS stunning refurbished four bedroom home offers contemporary living with superb gardens, lake and lake house.

The owners have carried out a no expense spared remodel of the property which has a stunning living space, open plan kitchen/family room, study, four bedrooms, two with en-suite, a luxury bathroom and underfloor heating.

The landscaped gardens back directly onto Rayleigh golf course and there is a double garage and extensive parking. The home is on the outskirts of Hullbridge with excellent local shops and schools, offering riverside walks

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RAYLEIGH £450,000 Hullbridge £180,000







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unoverlooked south facing rear garden, an in and out driveway, large conservatory, newly fitted kitchen and flooring. It is in close proximity to the train station and nearby schools.

Rayleigh

£150,000

Hullbridge

£275,000



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Hullbridge



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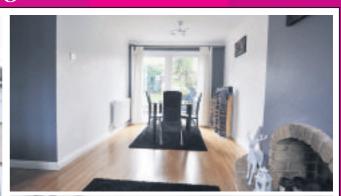
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* * * * *

it all began when we needed three valuations of my late mother's bungalow for probate. The quote from Stuart Thomas was the one in the middle but this was not the only reason we chose this independent local agent where we eventually came to sell. Not only were we impressed with the lack of hype and spin but also, unlike the other two agents they put no pressure on us to market the property, in fact they left us to contact them in our own time. We can thoroughly endorse the positive experience of other reviewers from finding a buyer through to successful completion, the service from Stuart and his steam was courteous, thorough and professional and not note did we feel "hassled". [is like us, you had an inheren distrust of estate agents, we suggest you go to Stuart Thomas and trengare to be reassured!

THUNDERSLEY £435,000

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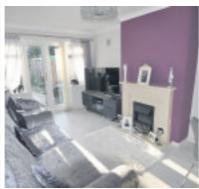
They are really amazing estate agents. 4 viewings in 24 hours, 2 offers and sold. Really pushed the sale through for us, start to finish will be 1 month! Nothing was too much trouble for them, always happy to help and the whole team so friendly. Would recommend to anyone!

THE BEST AGENT WE HAVE EVER USED

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We cannot thank Stuart and his team enough for all their help with our recent house move. They kept us up to date on how things were progressing and any problems were quickly resolved. We would certainly recommend them to our family and friends and would have no hesitation in using them again for any future property moves.







BENFLEET £325,000 GUIDE PRICE

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Kiln Road, THUNDERSLEY

Guide £425,000 - £450,000









Three Bedroom Detached Character Bungalow \ Paul Newman Fitted Kitchen/Diner 25'4 x 12'7 \ Lounge 20'8 x 11'11 \ Bedroom One 14'11 x 11'1 \ Bedroom Two 9'11 x 9'4 \ Bedroom Three 14'10 x 9'6 > 7'0 \ Stunning Four Piece Bathroom With Jacuzzi Bath With TV & Walk In Shower \ Double Glazed Throughout \ Gas Central Heating \ Extensive 100ft Rear Garden With Summerhouse & Large Outside Eating Area \ Large Front Garden With Off Street Parking For 7/8 Vehicles \ Completely Refurbished Throughout \ Built In Alarm System \ Sole Agents \ Popular Convenient Location \ Easy Access Of King John School, Seevic College & Hadleigh Town Centre $\$ Viewings Advised $\$ EPC Band D $\$ Call 01702 555888





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\ Sole Agents \ Competitively Priced For Quick Sale \ No Onward Chain \ Epc - D \ Call 01702 555888







Three/Four Bedroom Semi Detached Chalet \ Front Lounge 12'2 x 10'4 \ Study 6'8 x 6'2 \ Real Lounge 14'0 x 12'11 \ Ground Floor Bedroom Three 10'3 x 9'7 \ Kitchen 10'8 x 6'10 \ Bedroom One 18'1 max x 10'5 max \ Bedroom Two 16'5 max x 9'7 narrowing at end \ First Floor Shower Room \ Independent Driveway With Large 9ft Side Way Offering Off Street Parking For Numerous $Vehicles \setminus Robert\ Drake\ School\ Catchment \setminus Easy\ Access\ Of\ Local\ Amenities \setminus Close\ To\ A13\ \&$ Transport Links \ No Onward Chain \ Sole Agents \ Viewing Advised \ EPC - D \ Call 01702 555888

High Street, BENFLEET £350,000





Attention Commuters \ A Stylish Charming Two Bedroom Property Which Has A Huge Amount To Offer Having A Recently Constructed Detached Outbuilding, Landscaped Rear Garden & Views Over Benfleet Creek \ Lounge 13'0 x 10'7 \ Dining Room 14'1 x 11'1 \ Kitchen 9'6 x 6'10 \ Bedroom One 14'5 x 10'11 \ Bedroom Two 9'6 x 7'0 \ Four Piece Bathroom Suite \ Detached Outbuilding Offering A Bar & Games Area & Reception Space 16'4 x 16'4 \ Very Close To Benfleet Station \ Off Street Parking \ EPC Band C \ Call 01702 555888

HADLEIGH Guide £350,000 - £360,000



A Rare Opportunity To Purchase This Attractive Detached Character Bungalow Forming A Good Size Plot With Encircling Gardens, Off Street Parking & Detached Garage \ Reception Hall 15'4 x 8'3 \ Lounge 15'0 x 13'2 \ Kitchen/Diner 11'3 x 9'2 \ Lean To 10'2 x 5'8 \ Bedroom One 13'2 x 11'11 \ Bedroom Two 12'6 x 9'11 \ Four Piece Bathroom Suite \ 65ft Rear Garden \ Detached Garage 16'8 x 9'11 \ Off Street Parking \ EPC Band E \ Call 01702 555888

Land required with or without planning.

Hall Farm Road, BENFLEET

Guide £425,000 - £435,000







Ideally Located For Benfleet Mainline Station A Substantial Versatile Detached Home In Excellent Condition Throughout That Must Be Viewed Internally To Be Fully Appreciated \ Ground Floor Bedroom Two/Reception Room 13'9 x 12'0 \ Lounge/Diner 29'1 x 11'5 \ Kitchen/Breakfast Room 16'2 x 9'10 \ Conservatory/ Utility 10'5 x 6'7 \ Ground Floor Shower Room 8'10 x 8'0 \ Master Bedroom 20'1 x 9'11 \ Bedroom Three 10'2 max x 9'6 max \ Four Piece Bathroom Suite \ Landscaped 55ft Rear Garden \ EPC Band D \ Call 01702 555888













LEIGH ON SEA £445,500



Fabulous Location Close To Vibrant Leigh Broadway \ Three Good Size Bedrooms \ Fitted Kitchen \ Nice Dining Room \ Double Glazed Windows \ Neat Rear Garden \ Easy Walk To Leigh Train Station \ Character Property \ Lean To With Double Glazed Lean To \ Call Hockley Office 01702 207720 For More Details.

RAYLEIGH



£325,000



Character Semi Detached Bungalow \ Popular Location Within Yards Of Local Shopping Parade And Short Walk To Train Station \ Three Bedrooms \ Radiators \ Double Glazed Windows \ Off Street Parking \ Garage \ Lounge With French Doors Overlooking Garden \ Modern Well Fitted Kitchen \ Call Rayleigh Office 01268 742742 To View

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Three Bedroom Detached Chalet Bungalow \ Minutes From Hockley Shops & Train Station Into Liverpool Street \ Recently Refurbished To Excellent Standard \ Sweeping In/Out Driveway \ Double Glazed Windows \ Study/Potential Bedroom Four \ Must Be Seen Inside To Fully Appreciate \ Call 01702 207720 for more information.

Hadleigh - t: 01702 555 888 Hockley - t: 01702 207 720 Rayleigh - t: 01268 742 742

















Hadleigh - t: 01702 555 888 Rayleigh - t: 01268 742 742

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This Is A Large, Modern Three Bedroom Bungalow In Hadleigh / Lounge 10'84 x 24'62 / Modern Kitchen With Dining Area 8'76 x 16'56 / Brand New Three Piece Bathroom Suite 5'61 x 6'88 / Separate Modern W/C / Master Bedroom 11'23 x 12'71 / Bedroom Two 8'62 x 8'73 / Bedroom Three 7'65 x 8'36 / Large Rear Garden / Off Street Parking / Garage / EPC on Order / Available Immediately / Fees Apply /



A Two Bedroom Recently Redecorated Bungalow In Rayleigh / Lounge 11'92 x 13'62 / Further Reception Room 9'46 x 7'25 / Kitchen 10'9 x 7'7 / Bathroom 7'78 x 7'64 / Master Bedroom 12'56 x 12'39 / Bedroom Two 12'49 x 10'28 / Front & Rear Garden / Garage / Front Driveway / EPC Band E / Fees Apply / Available Immediately /



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Benfleet

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£825 pcm





This Is A Good Size Three Bedroom Semi Detached House In Hadleigh With Views Over The Salvation Army Fields / Lounge 15'63 x 12'08 / Dining Room 12'97 x 10'30 / Modern Kitchen 11'54 x 7'87 / Master Bedroom 14'71 x 11'48 / Bedroom Two 10'42 x 11'93 / Bedroom Three 6'79 x 6'0 / Modern Four Piece Bathroom Suite 8'85 x 7'45 / Rear Garden With Patio Area / Off Street Parking For Two Vehicles / EPC Band F / Available Immediately / Fees Apply /





This Is A Good Size Two Bedroom Semi-Detached House In Benfleet / Lounge 12'14 x 14'96 / Brand New Fitted Kitchen 13'34 x 8'06 / Dining Room 10'14 x 6'83 / Master Bedroom 14'95 x 10'75 / Bedroom Two 14'97 x 8'29 / Front And Rear Gardens / EPC Band C / Available Immediately / Fees Apply







This Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat Has Been Fully Refurbished To A High Standard / Lounge 12'08 x 13'29 / Brand New Kitchen 12'86 x 7'97 / Brand New Three Piece Bathroom Suite 7'94 x 5'80 / Master Bedroom 11'34 x 10'50 / Bedroom Two 7'94 x 5'80 / Shared Rear Garden / Off Street Parking / Convenient Location / EPC Band D / Available Immediately / Fees Apply /























MARINE ESTATE. LEIGH £589.995

Detached family house, sought after Marine Estate location, short walk to Leigh Station and within the Westleigh Schools Catchment Area. Garage and workshop, parking for three cars, 70' WEST FACING rear garden. Cloaks / w.c., fitted kitchen & utility room, superb 20' x 13'4 lounge with feature fireplace, a separate 17'2 x 12'2 dining room, three bedrooms and a large luxury bathroom. Ref et15521





CHALKWELL HALL ESTATE £239,950

PRICED TO ALLOW FOR SOME MODERNISATION - this purpose built two bedroom 2nd floor flat is situated in an eagerly sought after block behind wrought iron gates in Imperial Avenue, on the Chalkwell Hall Estate, walking distance of Chalkwell Station. The property benefits from lovely views across the bowling green and has the advantage of a balcony and garage.









LARGE MAISONETTE WITH FABULOUS ESTUARY VIEWS, LEIGH - QUIDE PRICE £400,000 - £425,000

A large two double bedroom first and second floor maisonette with GARAGE and TWO SOUTH FACING BALCONIES enjoying exceptional estuary views towards the Kent coastline. Eagerly sought after location, walking distance of Chalkwell Station, the beach and Leigh Broadway. FREEHOLD INCLUDED. 20' x 15' lounge / diner, 13'10 x 10'6 kitchen with access to 3rd balcony, cloaks/ w.c./ utility room, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, shower room/ w.c. Ref etl 5556

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LUXURY REFURBISHED GROUND FLOOR FLAT, LEIGH £329,995

A truly stunning completely refurbished purpose built ground floor flat with two double bedrooms, garage and very large communal gardens. Large lounge, new luxury kitchen with appliances, new luxury bathroom, new double glazing, new gas c/h, new floor coverings, smooth plastered walls and ceilings with LED downlights, rewired and replumbed, new internal doors, Eagerly sought after location within walking distance of Leigh Station, Westleigh Schools and local shops. Keys available for viewing. Ref etl5555

01702 713255 www.townandcountryessex.co.uk









LEIGH-ON-SEA £549,500

A beautifully presented detached four bedroom house in the Westleigh Schools catchment area and walking distance of Leigh Station. En-suite shower room to master bedroom, luxury bathroom and separate w.c., large lounge with feature fireplace, elegant separate dining room, spacious luxury fitted kitchen, lovely 65' approx rear garden, garage and independent drive. Ref et 15471









DAWS HEATH, HADLEIGH £439,995

A stunning bungalow which has been completely refurbished, remodelled and virtually re-built by a local highly reputable builder. The bungalow is situated in an eagerly sought after location close to the Woods and Nature Reserve. Family size accommodation with three bedrooms, luxury bathroom and a truly fabulous 30' x 18' open plan living area incorporating a bespoke luxury fitted kitchen with integrated appliances. Keys are available to view this superb bungalow. Ref et15536

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MARINE ESTATE, LEIGH £425,000

Semi-detached bungalow,completely refurbished within the last two years, offering spacious and modern living accommodation, situated on the eagerly sought after Marine Estate within walking distance of Leigh Station. Two bedrooms en suite shower, spacious lounge with bi-fold doors, 18' luxury kitchen and dining area with integrated appliances, luxury bathroom, lovely landscaped garden and off street parking. Ref etl5538

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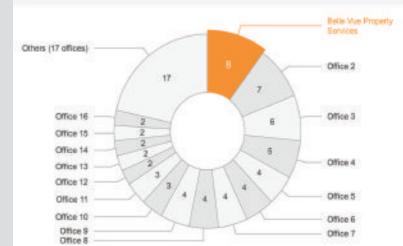
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Leigh on Sea Offers Over £180,000

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"Leigh-on-Sea house prices have risen by HOW MUCH? – You might be shocked!"

HOUSE prices in Leigh on Sea have risen by more than 16 per cent – quite a bit more than the national average according to the Halifax, one of Britain's best known mortgage lenders.

They show the average price of a home in Leigh is £314,175, a 16.6 per cent rise on the previous year. The increase, which is significantly more than the national average of 10.1 per cent, is the fifth highest in the country.

It comes after the Times national newspaper named Leigh on Sea the fourth best place to live in Britain.

There are many buyers attracted to Leigh from east London where similar properties are around double the price of those in Leigh.

These London buyers are attracted by the cafe community feel of Leigh Broadway and Leigh Road with many comparing that as being similar to the so called London 'local villages' with their high street, independent coffee shops and bars.

When you consider the properties are similar to those in London along with the lure of picturesque Old Leigh and the Thames, it's easy to see why London buyers are falling in love with Leigh on Sea.

Added to that are the favourable commuting times to London with buyers saying that commuting to central London from Leigh has added just 15 minutes to their journey time in comparison to where they used to live in East London

Therefore they can buy virtually the same style of property for half the price and still commute to work within an acceptable timeframe. A win-win for buyers and local Leigh sellers.

If you'd like help in determining an accurate initial marketing price for your property, please ask Roger or Michelle at R V Hall & Co on 01702 470044.

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE... "How can we sell your
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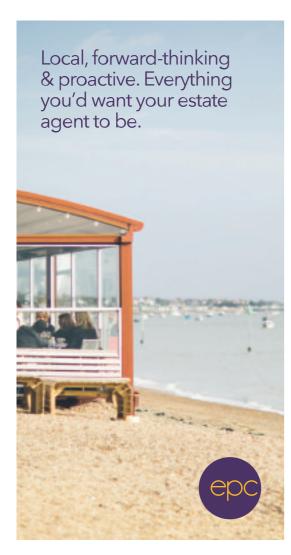


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GUIDE PRICE £380,000 - £420,000 This large property has come to the market offering extensive living accommodation suitable for the whole family. There are five double bedrooms and a study, a lovely conservatory to the rear, workshop, an abundance of off street parking and garage. The property is located within close proximity of local amenities and park.



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Kenilworth Gardens, Westcliff on Sea GUIDE PRICE £450,000 - £475,000 This substantial home has come to the market offering room for all! There is so much potential here to extend (subject to planning) and to create a fantastic family home. The current owners have taken much pride in presenting their home that is full of character and charm throughout. Contact us today to arrange your viewing.



Dundonald Drive, Leigh on Sea GUIDE PRICE £500,000 - £550,000 We are thrilled to present to the market this beautiful home in Leigh on sea. The property has been maintained to a high standard by its current owner who has taken much pride in the upkeep of her home. There is so much on offer here including a stunning kitchen/diner that makes a fantastic family room.



Leicester Avenue, Rochford GUIDE PRICE £340,000 - £360,000 If you are looking for a property that has plenty of space and potential, this is the one for you! The property has four bedrooms, off street parking, annexe which is currently being used as living accommodation and plenty of scope to make it your own. The property is to be sold with no onward chain!



£450,000 Woodgrange Drive, Thorpe Bay This this fantastic property has come to the market offering a great opportunity to modernise and create lovely family home. The current owner has taken much pride in the presentation of the property which is visible as you walk through the front door! There is a fantastic sized open plan living area making it a wonderful space for entertaining.



Holyrood Drive, Westcliff on Sea Fantastic First Time Buy This beautifully presented home certainly ticks all the boxes! Offering off street parking, garage, south facing garden, lovely kitchen/diner and a fantastic location, there is everything you need and more! Rarely does a property like this become available, do not miss out, contact us today!

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Eastwood Road, Leigh On Sea

Finished to the highest of standards just two years ago, this spectacular home has come to the market and has had only the best features fitted throughout. A bespoke Moylans kitchen sits within a carefully thought out living space that is perfect for entertaining with its impressive living areas and landscaped garden. This would make a perfect buy for the whole family to enjoy.



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Leighview Drive, Leigh on Sea

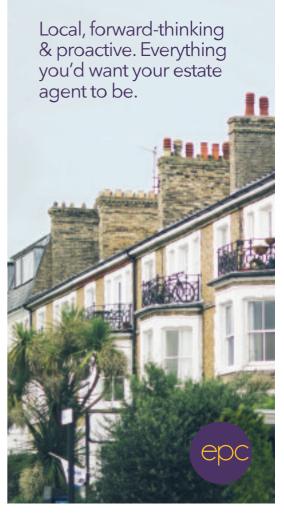
You would regret not viewing this stunning family home. With room for all, the open plan living space and four bedrooms makes this the perfect property to enjoy! The beautiful kitchen/diner provides fantastic entertaining areas that lead through French doors onto the garden



Trusses Road, Bradwell On Sea

£550,000

This stunning four bedroom family home has been built to the highest of standards and incorporates family living areas that are ideal for entertaining. Set in a most peaceful location with picturesque views over farmland and distant views over Bradwell Marina, this property has everything you could wish for from rural living.





Feeches Road, Southend on Sea

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This unusual "New York style apartment" has come to the market offering two bedrooms, allocated parking, utility room and a fantastic balcony to enjoy from the master bedroom. This property is to be sold chain free and is well presented throughout. Contact us today to arrange your viewina!



Danescroft Drive, Leigh on Sea GUIDE PRICE £390,000 - £430,000 This is a fantastic size two bedroom semi-detached bungalow that has been completely refurbished throughout and is ready to move straight in! The property has a large outbuilding that could run as an office/annexe/ garage/workshop and has power and lighting throughout. There is more to this property than meets the eye!

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The recent success of their new Colchester branch has fuelled this drive to offer more opportunities to sell for the clients of Auction House Essex. With 14 auctions already scheduled for 2017 it is looking to be the company's busiest year to date.

The popularity of sale by auction is continuing to increase due to the speed and certainty of sale offered through this route to market. Property vendors are increasingly keen to cut out the lengthy process of sale by private treaty with conveyance taking roughly 4 months. When selling by auction the transfer will take place within 28 days of the sale.

Speed and certainty of sale aren't the only benefits of auction sale either, auctioneers will often sell a property above market value. This is because the auctioneers will gather all interested parties in one room and see who is willing to pay the most for the property being offered, this offers a stark contrast to the service provided by estate agents who list the property and wait for the first acceptable offer to come along.

Auctions have become an easier path for purchasers too, particularly for people looking to buy property with room for improvement. Owner occupiers are also visiting auction halls more frequently, including first time buyers and families who,

with the assistance of the auctioneers, can now obtain speedy mortgage offers and be in a position to bid.

Auction House Essex even have insurance and independent mortgage brokers in attendance at the auctions to offer advice to any prospective purchasers.

With all these factors combined, Auction House Essex are offering numerous and diverse properties to a wide demographic of purchasers. If you are looking to sell quickly and still achieve a good sale price for your property then please don't hesitate to give the team at Auction House Essex a call on 01702 33 33 99 to arrange a totally free, no obligation auction appraisal. If you are looking to invest in some property, then please browse through the available stock at www.AuctionHouseEssex.co.uk and get in contact if you require any further information.







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Austin Allegro now a rare bird

By Ian Johnson

THERE was a definite sense of déjà vu at the traffic lights recently when an Austin Allegro pulled up alongside me

This product of the early 1970s is now not far from extinction with just 184 of the 642,350 examples made still on the road.

Some versions are on the brink with just one example of the upmarket Vanden Plas version remaining registered

The Allegro was and still is a much-maligned car.

Produced from 1973 to the early 1980s, it was designed as the replacement for the successful Austin 1100 and 1300 models. But to many eyes the Allegro seemed like the result of a committee effort and had little to commend it. It illustrated the difficulties facing its manufacturer British Leyland.

The major problem was that this giant corporation



missed the trick because the Allegro saloon would have done much better as a hatchback.
Cars like the Renault 16

and the VW Golf were already demonstrating that the hatchback had tremendous popularity and would dominate the European market in years ahead.

The reason is that internal company politics at BL dictated that only the Austin Maxi should have a hatchback as a unique selling point in the range.

With hindsight it can be seen that this idea was totally stupid as it not only shot the Allegro in the foot but also the new wedgeshaped Austin Princess. Both cars would have

made sensible hatchbacks. Also the Allegro had a pumped-up, tubby styling that was far from elegant and the use of the almost square "quartic" steering wheel in early models prompted gasps of amaze-ment and criticism that just

would not go away.
The Allegro was similar to the 1100 in utilising frontwheel drive and the then new Hydragas suspension.

Under the bonnet was the familiar A-Series engine with a sump-mounted transmission. The higherspecification models used the E-Series engine in 1,500 cc and 1,750 cc displacements.

But Brits are a faithful lot and as late as 1979, six years after its launch, it was the fifth-best-selling new car in Britain.

In my early days in motoring I drove a number of examples of this bulbous, buffoon of a car and came away with the impression that there was far more comic character to it than quality.

Like some other BL products of this time, the Allegro had the potential to be a world beater.

In theory it had everything going for it.

But after a short time if

you mentioned you were driving an Allegro you would get looks of sympathy from friends and howls of derision from Ford drivers. It was a poor successor to the 1100, a car which we tend to forget fought and beat the Ford Cortina to sales success in the early 1960s.

The stories about Allegro's shortcomings are numerous. One notable one involved the rear windows popping out when the car was jacked up incorrectly and one example bending when being filmed for an advert, leaping humps in a quarry. There was also the far more serious problem of wheels dropping off due to a bearing problem. In connection with this, BL lost an unpleasant product liability court case in 1977.

The press ripped this car up for its faults and it very soon was named All-Aggro by its detractors.

It just typified British Leyland.

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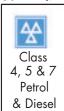
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SOUTHEND ON SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL Department of People

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Local Authorities are required by the School Admissions Code to publish details of the determined admission arrangements for primary and secondary schools within their area and to give parents and other groups the opportunity to make any objections to the Schools Adjudicator. Details of the determined admissions arrangements for all schools in the Southend Borough for the **September 2018/19 round of admissions** are now available for inspection on the Council's website
https://www.southend.gov.uk/downloads/download/369/education_

policies_plans_and_strategies Anyone wishing to object to the Schools Adjudicator regarding any of the admission arrangements has until 15th May 2017 to make an objection

Office of the Schools Adjudicator, Bishopsgate House, Feethams,

Darlington DL1 5QE. Tel: 01325 340 402 Email osa.team@osa.gsi.gov.uk

Hard copies of individual school arrangements are available from: School Admissions Team, Department for People, Southend on Sea Borough Council, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend on Sea SS2 6ER. Tel: 01702-215 942. Email: admissions@southend.gov.uk Simon Leftley, Deputy Chief Executive (People), Southend on Sea Borough Council, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend on Sea SS2 6ER

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BLUES BOUNCE BACK TO STUN SADDLER Southend United 3-2 Walsall **By Brian Jeeves**

SOUTHEND United manager Phil Brown was delighted as his Sky Bet League One play-off contenders produced a stunning recovery to beat in-form Walsall.

Blues trailed 2-0 with little less

than half an hour remaining, but a series of substitutions appeared to spark the home side into life after a

lacklustre opening period.
"I was probably the only man in the stadium that didn't want to make any changes at half-time. Brown said.

"I thought we created four or five good opportunities, none more so than Nile Ranger's header, so I decided to just leave it.

"But then changes of formation, changes of personnel play a big part in any second half of football and

we didn't start particularly well.
"Ryan Inniss's booking was the turning point in the game because I thought he was flying close to the wind in the first half, but then he got a yellow card early on [in the second half] and John [White] is always capable of playing inside one and it's Jason [Demetriou's] old club, so the substitutions played a massive part.

"With Theo [Robinson's] pace and [Simon] Cox's cleverness it played a massive part in the win."



Walsall took control of the contest thanks to a quickfire double from former Blues midfielder Franck Moussa midway through the opening half.
However, the introduction of

Jason Demetriou, Theo Robinson and Simon Cox breathed new life into the home side, who reduced the arrears when Ranger headed home after Will Atkinson had picked him

All of a sudden it was Southend with the momentum. Walsall failed

to deal with Anthony Wordsworth's flag-kick, and skipper Anton flag-kick, Ferdinand volleyed beyond the visitors' goalkeeper Neil Etheridge to

restore parity.

In the final stages, substitute Cox completed the comeback, fizzing a dead-ball effort past the helpless Etheridge sending Roots Hall into

Brown continued: "Going back to the spirit of the group, they were saying at half-time this will test us if we really believe and you have to say

that at the end of the game we really believed.

'You've got to look at [Neil] Etheridge and you'd have to say he was probably their best player in the second half, but the moves were coming, the fluency of the moves, the juices were flowing, you could see that in the creativity in the team in the second half, but it took 60 minutes to get that goal.

"Everybody can question team selection and formations and stuff like that, but I believe in this group of players. I don't believe in the first 11 of the group, I believe in the group of players and that's what's got us the result."

got us the result."

Southend United: Smith, White, Coker, Wordsworth, McLaughlin, Atkinson (Cox 74'), Amos (Demetriou 51'), Leonard, Inniss (Robinson 51'), Ferdinand (C), Ranger. Subs Not Used: Thompson, Timlin, Fortune, McGlashan

Walsall: Etheridge, Edwards, Laird, O'Connor, McCarthy, Dobson, Chambers (C), Oztumer (Moussa 15' (Morris 81')), Osbourne, Preston, Makris (Bakayoko 80'). Subs Not Used: MacGillivray, Jackson, Randall, Roberts
Referse: Robert Jones
Assistants: Louis Marks and Stephen Finch.

Fourth Official: Robert Whitton

outfoxed by ${ t Leicester}$ onslaught ammers

West Ham United 2 Leicester City 3 Brian Jeeves reporting from the London Stadium

FIRST-HALF goals from Riyad Mahrez, Robert Huth and Jamie Vardy were enough to see much improved Leicester City wrestle three Premier League points from the London Stadium, despite a stirring fightback from West Ham.

Boss Slaven Bilic was without skipper Mark Noble while Andre Ayew and Sam Byram were handed starts.

Champions Leicester arrived in east London off the back of league victories over Liverpool and Hull City, coupled with midweek Champions League progress.

West Ham were first to threaten as

Michail Antonio fired over from distance after Manuel Lanzini had teed him up.

But the home side were stunned within minutes. Mahrez's angled attempt towards the far post eluded everyone, including keeper Darren Randolph, much to the anguish of the majority inside the London Stadium. And worse was to follow.

Within two minutes Huth rose to meet Marc Albrighton's pinpoint cen-

tre giving Randolph no chance.

This was rapidly turning into a

bad day at the office for West Ham. Winston Reid limped off with less than 20 minutes on the clock to be replaced by Robert Snodgrass.

But soon after, Lanzini stepped up to send a fizzing free-kick beyond Foxes keeper Kasper Schmeichel to reduce the deficit.

The home side seemed to have found their feet. Ayew sent a couple of opportunities wide while Antonio could only find Schmeichel's gloves as the Hammers probed for an equaliser.

But before they could make any further headway, Leicester extended their advantage. Vardy seized on some hesitant defending before lashing high into the net from close range, sparking an angry exodus by Hammers fans.

The Hammers clearly returned for the second period with a flea in their ear. But despite exerting slightly more in the way of an attacking threat, Leicester remained

comfortable and largely untroubled. In the meantime, Vardy broke clear and lifted over as the Foxes went in search of a fourth.

Lanzini hadn't given up the fight. The tricky Argentine drew a terrific save from Schmeichel from a thundering free-kick. But from the resulting corner, Ayew turned in after Andy Carroll had headed back across goal, giving the Hammers renewed hope.

Buoyed by the goal West Ham swarmed forward in a bid to rescue

something from the game. Schmeichel somehow clawed out Carroll's goalbound header, while Ayew fired over when sent clear.

Cheikhou Kouyate and Carroll had efforts blocked as the Hammers onslaught continued.

Schmeichel saved his best save for stoppage time, denying Carroll with stunning reactions that drew comparisons to his famous father.

Leicester should have put the contest beyond reasonable doubt when substitute Islam Slimani broke clear only to be thwarted by Randolph.

Nevertheless, the Foxes had done enough to earn their third successive Premier League victory under Craig Shakespeare, moving them further clear of the drop zone.

Speaking after the game, Bilic said: "I'm very disappointed. We knew that they had a momentum and of course they are a good side who were underachieving this season.

"But they scored three goals in the first half. The first goal was very sloppy from our point of view. Then two set-pieces that we knew they were good at."

Bilic was happier with his side

after the break, saying: "The second half was really good, maybe the best performance that we have had this season. Everything was there, passing, crosses, beating players one against one, but the ball didn't want to go in."

Leicester boss Shakespeare said: "There's no secret hard work, endeavour, resilience along with some good football."

West Ham United are next in Premier League action on Saturday, April 1 when they travel to the KC

April I when they travel to the KC Stadium to face Hull City (3pm). West Ham United: Darren Randolph, Winston Reid (Capt) (Robert Snodgrass 17'), Aaron Cresswell (Arthur Masuaku 73') Cheikhou Kouyate, Andy Carroll, Manuel Lanzini, Pedro Obiang (Edimilson Fernandes 65'), Andre Ayew, Sam Byram, Jose Fonte, Michail Antonio. Subs not used: Adrian, Havard Nordtveit, Sofiane Feghouli, James Collins Leicester City: Kasper Schmeichel (Capt), Danny Drinkwater, Robert Huth, Jamie Vardy (Islam Slimani 76'), Marc Albrighton, Danny Simpson, Shinji Okazaki (Ahmed Musa 76'), Wilfred Ndidi, Riyad Mahrez (Ben Chilwell 87'), Christian Fuchs, Yohan Benalouane Subs not used: Ron-Robert Zieler, Andy King, Daniel Amartey, Demarai Gray. Referee: Roger East Assistants: Darren Cann and Mark Scholes Fourth Official: Andre Marriner Attendance: 56,979

Attendance: 56,979

Non-league round-up

Braintree edge towards safety

By Brian Jeeves

NATIONAL League Braintree Town did their chances of avoiding relegation a power of good as a brace from Sam Corne ensured the Iron a 2-0 success over struggling Southport at Cressing Road.

Corne struck either side of the break as the north Essex side moved seven points clear of

Elsewhere, Dagenham & Redbridge slipped to a 2-1 defeat against fellow play-off hopefuls Barrow at Holker Street. Liam Hughes (penalty) and Moussa Diarra found the net for the Cumbrian outfit after Corey Whitley had

given the Daggers an early lead.
Ferni Akinwande and Scott Heard found the net as East Thurrock United bagged all three points with a 2-1 National League South win over Oxford City at Rookery Hill. Louie Theophanous grabbed his second goal in as many games as Chelmsford City took an early lead at Wealdstone. However, Joe White's penalty 20 minutes from time earned the hosts a share of the spoils. There was a setback for Concord Rangers, who were beaten at Hungerford Town, thanks to goals from Jon Boardman and Stefan Brown. Amos Nasha had earlier given the Beach Boys the lead.

In the Ryman League Premier Division, Canvey Island made it five wins on the bounce. Frankie Merrifield scored twice, while George Sykes added another in a 3-0 win at Merstham. Billericay Town also won 3-0 on the road. Billy Bricknell (2) and Mekhi McLeod with the Blues goals.

Grays Athletic lost 2-0 at home to Havant & Waterlooville. Dan Aristidou, Scott Olu Durojaiye (2), Anthony McDonald and Ralston Durojarye (2), Antinony McDonaid and Raiston Gabriel found the net as Haringey Borough thrashed Great Wakering Rovers 5-2 in Ryman League Division One North. Jake Gordon's brace proved to be scant consolation for the Villagers. Lamar Reynolds's first-half strike helped Brentwood Town stun Maldon &

Martin Tuohy scored AFC Hornchurch's goal in a 1-1 draw with struggling Wroxham at Bridge Avenue, while David Knight ensured Bowers & Pitsea a share of the spoils at the Len Salmon Stadium after Billy Holland had given Waltham Abbey an early lead.

Billy Coyne (pen) and Mason Bloomfield helped Aveley to an entertaining 2-2 draw at Dereham Town, while David Fallah, Ryan Mallett and James Ishmail found the net for Romford. Reece Grant, Lewis Godbold and Adam Bolle replied for Heybridge Swifts as the

Tilbury slipped to a 2-0 defeat at the hands of Phoenix Sport at Chadfields. Theo Fairweather-Johnson and Jack Barry on target for the visitors. David Cowley scored Thurrock's goal in a 2-1 defeat at Soham Town Rangers.

In the Essex Senior League, leaders Barking saw off Southend Manor 3-0 at Mayesbrook Park. Takeley were the big winners of the day, thrashing Enfield 1893 6-1, while Barkingside were 3-1 winners over Eyton Manor. There was a 2-1 success for Waltham Forest at Basildon United.

Sawbridgeworth won by a single goal at Waltham Forest, while the games between Clapton and West Essex and Hullbridge and London Bari both ended 1-1.

Selected highlights from the ProKit UK Essex Olympian League saw Leigh Ramblers win their Premier Division derby against White Ensign by four goals to nil. Springfield also hit

four, eventually winning 4-1 at Harold Hill. Division One leaders Basildon Town were in fantastic form, hammering Snaresbrook 4-0.

In Division Two Benfleet were 5-1 winners over Herongate Athletic.

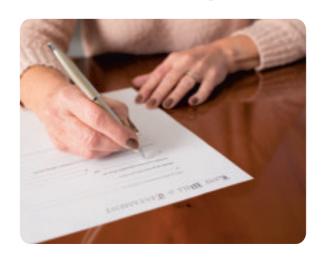


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